

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8610

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR,US

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV'S WEAPONS BAN PROPOSAL AS A POSSIBLE UNGA
INITIATIVE

REF: MOSCOW 8488

1. THE PRIVATE SOVIET LINE ON THE BREZHNEV JUNE 13 STATEMENT ABOUT AWESOME NEW WEAPONS CONTINUES TO BE SOMEWHAT CONFUSED, BUT WE HAVE TWO NEW HINTS THAT A SOVIET PROPOSAL FOLLOWING UP THE BREZHNEV REFERENCE MAY SURFACE AT THE NEXT UNGA. DURING A TALK WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT, CHIEF OF THE MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION ISRAELYAN SAID THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS A PLAN TO INTRODUCE SUCH A PROPOSAL AT THE UNGA BUT THAT THE "INTERESTED SERVICES" HAVE NOT YET ELABORATED THE DETAILS. AND MFA USA DIVISION DEPUTY CHIEF FEDOSEYEV, IN CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBOFF JUNE 19, SAID "IT SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED" THAT THE "NEW WEAPONS" INITIATIVE MAY BE THIS YEAR'S MAJOR SOVIET UNGA PROPOSAL. ASKED IF THIS MEANT THAT THE SOVIETS WERE NOT CONTEM-
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PLATING A BILATERAL APPROACH TO THE U.S., FEDOSEYEV SAID

THAT SUCH AN APPROACH MIGHT ALSO BE POSSIBLE.

2. THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOVIET UNGA INITIATIVE IS SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE WITH WHAT WE WERE TOLD BY FEDOSEYEV'S COLLEAGUE SOKOLOV (REFTEL). IN HIS TALKS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM (WHICH PRECEDED THE BREZHNEV SPEECH BY A FEW HOURS) ISRAELYAN EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF DISARMAMENT INITIATIVES IN THE UNGA AND DID NOT RULE OUT THE PROSPECT OF ANOTHER SOVIET ONE THIS YEAR, ALTHOUGH HE SAID NOTHING SPECIFIC. IT WOULD NOT SURPRISE US TO SEE A UNGA INITIATIVE DEVELOP FROM BREZHNEV'S WORDS, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE SOVIETS WILL BE GIVING INCREASED EMPHASIS TO "MILITARY DETENTE" FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF CSCE.

3. THE SOVIETS, PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, CONTINUE TO BE VERY SPARING ABOUT WHAT BREZHNEV ACTUALLY MEANT. YURI ZHUKOV IN PRAVDA JUNE 19 MANAGED TO PRAISE THE INITIATIVE WITHOUT REALLY DESCRIBING IT. PERHAPS THE MOST DETAILED ACCOUNT--THOUGH ONE WITHOUT MUCH RING OF AUTHORITY--APPEARED IN A COMMENTARY IN THE MOSCOW DAILY SOTSIYALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA WHICH, IN DISCUSSING THE BREZHNEV REFERENCE, NOTED WESTERN SPECULATION ABOUT METEOROLOGICAL WEAPONS AND MAN-MADE EARTHQUAKES AND TIDAL WAVES, AND THEN LAUNCHED INTO A STRONG DEFENSE OF THE NEED FOR A CONVENTION AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL WARFARE.
STOESSEL

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